

QUOTATIONS

HONGKONG, 17th August, 1869.

OPIMUM.—Patna, New, ... \$565
Old, ... 545
Benares, New, ... 560
Old, ...
Malwa, ... 627½
B...

COTTON.—BOMBAY,	600, nom.
CALCUTTA,	17 1/2 a 22 1/2
CALCUTTA,	16 a 20

Exchange.

Bank, 6 months' sight,	4/5 1/2
Credit, 6	4/6 1/2
On Calcutta, 3 days' sight, Rs. 236	
" Bombay, 3 days' sight, Rs. 336	
" Shanghai, 3 days' sight, Bank, Tk. 76	
Bar Silver, 17 dwts. B.,	5

Mexicans,	3.50	a 1.20
Gold Leaf,
Gold Bar, 98 touch,	33.20	a 23.25
English Sovereigns,	23.85	a 23.10
Australian Sovereigns,	4.50	...
Discount,	4.48	...
Gas Company Shares,	10	a 12
H. & W. pos Dock, Old,	6	a 8 p. a disc.
H. & S. Bank Shares, Old,	3	a p. c. pra.
Do. do. New,	15	...
Union Dock	40	a 45 p. c. pra.

Temperature.
HONGKONG, 17th August, 1889.
(Taken at Messrs Falconer & Co.'s Premises,
Queen's Road.)

THERMOMETER—9 A.M.,		Dry,	82
Do.		Wet,	78½
Do.	4 P.M.,	Dry,	84
Do.		Wet,	78½
Self-registered Maximum,			86
Do.	Min. over night,		82

Do. 29,978
4 P.M. 29,892

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N O T I C E .—It is particularly requested that all communications relating to the general business of this paper be addressed to the Proprietor and in no case to individuals be

name. Much delay and inconvenience in the transaction of business will thereby be avoided.

DIED.
At Hongkong, on the 15th inst., Capt. H. W. MOSES, of Bath, Maine, U. S. A., late Master American barque *Rome*.

THE CHINA MAIL.
HONGKONG, TUESDAY, AUG. 17, 1869.
CHINESE EVIDENCE.
THE Judgment given by Sir E. Hornby
on the motion for leave to appear in the

question as to the credibility of Chinese witnesses. While we admit with the learned Chief Judge that the formula used on the occasion of the trial sufficiently assured the fact of the Chinese witnesses being under some sense of moral compulsion, we must quite dissent

what this "moral compulsion" is sufficiently strong to render "a basis precisely such as the law of England requires to found an oath upon." The distinction we would draw is this. The natives believe, says the Chief Judge, "in a God (the God of Thunder was the

Deity referred to on the occasion in question) and his attributes of power and knowledge sufficient at any rate to punish them if they lied." Now this may be very true, though, as we think, open to dispute, but the question is, do the natives believe in an exceptional punishment for perjury? Sir Edmund

Hornby quotes Mr Taylor's dictum that "a person is competent to testify if he believes in the existence of a God and that divine punishment will be the certain consequence of perjury" but defines "a God" to be in his opinion not an omnipotent power but a spiritual power; and furthermore says that more force is attributed to the word "certain" than

was probably intended by the learned writer: Upon these points we join issue. The first and most obvious consideration which occurs to the reader is the status of the God referred to. If, for instance, he be an inferior deity it is very obvious, that, supposing even a belief in his power and will to punish for sin, absolution could be purchased at the shrine of a more powerful God. There

seems to have been no attempt made in the case which has given rise to these remarks to ascertain the extent of the witnesses' belief. And we cannot but hold that belief in a God must have been intended by the authorities quoted to imply a *supreme* God, no matter what his attributes in other respects. There was no evidence (recorded) to show that the witnesses believed the God they

ferred to, omniscient as regards the punishment he was supposed to be able to inflict. Upon the second point we have yet stronger objections to make; the *certainly* is a most important element in the sense of obligation. The Chief Judge argues as follows:—

As to the belief in the *certainly* of punishment following perjury upon which much stress was laid, more force appears to be

attributed to the word than was probably intended by the learned text-writer. Even Christian witness may not be able to say, pressed, that he expects punishment to follow perjury certainly and without any

restoration or change of the mercy of God of the possibility of man therefore to say punished if he does amount to denying a mental doctrine of which is that our God and that he will forgive. All I can say is, that the Chinese God disapproves of doing bad things, and of thinking bad, and this is a case of in effect say.

Now this remark with the sense of an oath altogether. Does usually believe ment here or horses follow perjury.

"certainty" does how an oath is no conscience than the God will punish a crime forbidden in certainty, with a in the latter case, demonstrates that the and habitual swear placed on oath, and perjure himself who late to commit other that there is among belief that the perjury with retribution in be punished by the directed. But the fact that a strong as a certainty by law even criminals to court of justice. Must be absent from those to whom our unfamiliar and, who vague fears regards our courts, can only say that they is to a very large case of the European large extent absent Chinese.

An interesting was published in of the local Notes writer maintains that and practiced among his testimony rather argument inasmuch the practice he he prevents the tellious lie." This aim at "As a rule Europe do prevent they do not." With ment given by Sir the best opportunity credibility of the strictly just. We better satisfied, how for his refusal to founded upon a source

We hear from Shanghai over from a source consider as trustworthy the vile crew who the Californian found their way to buying up the surplus their purposes. Now that the local papers of what is going on reason to know that public comment. Yet in any of the Shanghai the miscreants or as opposition to a practice alike to Chinese and foreign prestige tion may be "the but --as some of our rters recently protesters with which. But we credited certain amount and were even rather that they allowed to enter into their coo with which they were.

"Apropos of this subjoin an extract *elvo Times* of the landing of the Republic," and hold prospect to other female, to emigrate.

There were only fifty women on board the were of a higher class imported. They were some of the leading ex press wagons were and the crowd, after women commenced to "wag." They were, to proceed without m At a convenient point from policemen, a squad accompanied by their attacked the Chinamen in a most ruin manner. (Some of the bruised, and a white spot the onslaught, me that was being admitted a drove of cattle w on streets, and be p knocked down and at Chinamen: are every would be arrested, pro animals and poci. Gen present on the coo men ran the gamut, wounded. If this was some one here or inform the Celestials this country la reason, and that who protect them they taste

Southern soldiers on that are deemed to des belonging to a taller way of business. The day posted in his shop the, pathetic announce (called this was a. Pool for voted interpreters House of Lords,

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